

Message Text

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USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2239

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI
SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY - APRIL 14,
1977 MEETING

REFS: A) STATE 083288 DTG 132256Z APR 77; B) STATE 073701
DTG 022252Z APR 77. (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. AT THEIR MEETING ON APRIL 14, THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON EQUIPMENT INTEROPERABILITY DISCUSSED FUTURE TASKING OF
WORKING GROUP 2 ON TACTICAL AIRCRAFT REARMING, A SPECIAL
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REPORT BY THE ASYG (DEFENCE SUPPORT) ON TANK GUN AMMUNITION,
A REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF WORKING GROUP 5 ON
STANAGS, A REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CNAD AD HOC
STUDY GROUP ON PROCEDURES TO ENSURE INTEROPERABILITY OF
FUTURE EQUIPMENT, AND A DRAFT REPORT TO MINISTERS.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE CHAIRMAN, DSYG PANSA, OPENED THE MEETING BY
APOLOGIZING FOR THE LATE CIRCULATION OF THE DOCUMENTS
LISTED ON THE AGENDA. HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT DELEGA-

TIONS MIGHT LACK INSTRUCTIONS ON SOME OF THE PAPERS. HOWEVER, HE HOPED THERE COULD BE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION, THE REPORT TO MINISTERS. COMMENT. THE MEETING PROCEEDED WITH MOST NATIONS COMMENTING ON AN UNINSTRUCTED BASIS AND WHEN AGREEING, THEY DID SO AD REFERENDUM. THE REPORTS REFERRED TO IN PARAS 2, 4 AND 6 BELOW WILL BE HANDCARRIED TO WASHINGTON ON APRIL 16. END COMMENT.

2. ON TACTICAL AIRCRAFT REARMING (WG/2), THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS) TABLED A PROPOSAL WHICH OUTLINES THE TASKING OF WG/2. THE PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS SYNTHESIZED FROM IS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DELEGATIONS, ALLOCATES THE FOLLOWING TASKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE APPROVED ACTION PROGRAMS TO WG/2:

A. REFINE THE COST ESTIMATES GIVEN IN THE WG/2 REPORT (AC/297-D/16).

B. ASSESS THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ACTION PROGRAMS FOR THE AIR-TO-AIR WEAPONS.

C. RECOMMEND AN EQUITABLE BASIS FOR SHARING COSTS AND SUBMIT A TIME SCHEDULE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMS.

THE PROPOSAL ALSO ASSIGNS THE REMAINING RECOMMENDATIONS, CONTAINED IN THE WG/2 REPORT, TO EXISTING BODIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH A MATRIX.

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3. AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF THE IS PROPOSAL, THE AD HOC COMMITTEE AGREED -- MOST REPRESENTATIVES INDICATING AD REFERENDUM -- THAT THE PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION WAS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT WG/2 DILEMMA. BOTH THE FRG AND THE UK REPS ACCEDED TO THE CONSENSUS AND SAID THEY WOULD RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL TO THEIR AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, BOTH FRG AND NL REPS ADDED THE CAVEAT THAT THIS TASKING OF WG/2 SHOULD NOT EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE GROUP BEYOND 1977.

4. ON TANK GUN AMMUNITION (WG/3), THE AD HOC COMMITTEE DISCUSSED A SPECIAL REPORT BY THE ASYG (DEFENSE SUPPORT) LABERGE. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSION WAS MOSTLY CONCERNED WITH HOW THE REPORT WILL BE SENT TO MINISTERS -- EITHER AS AN ANNEX TO THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT, OR AS A SEPARATE REPORT. SINCE IT WAS A PERSONAL REPORT BY THE ASYG, THE CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE ATTACH IT AS AN ANNEX TO THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT; AND, AT THE SAME TIME, STRENGTHEN THE WORDING IN THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO REFLECT MORE ACCURATELY THE 120MM SITUATION AS OUTLINED BY LABERGE. THE AHC COMMITTEE AGREED TO THIS PROCEDURE AD REFERENDUM, CONTINGENT UPON THE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSION ON THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO MINISTERS.

5. ON STANAGS (WG/5), THE CHAIRMAN OF WORKING GROUP 5 (MGEN LAWSON) REPORTED THAT ONLY FIVE NATIONS (BE, FR, NL, UK AND US) HAD RESPONDED TO THE PILOT STUDY ON A MONITORING SYSTEM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STANAGS. THEREFORE, THE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MEETING OW WG/5 ON APRIL 18 HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 23. LAWSON ALSO SAID THAT THE TOPIC OF A COSTING SYSTEM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STANAGS WOULD BE ON THE WG/5 AGENDA.

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USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE

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6. ON PROCEDURES TO ENSURE ADEQUATE INTEROPERABILITY OF FUTURE EQUIPMENT (IFE), THE AD HOC COMMITTEE DISCUSSED A REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CNAD AD HOC STUDY GROUP ON PERIODIC ARMAMENTS PLANNING -- THE GROUP ALSO DOING THE WORK ON THE IFE PROCEDURES. THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE REPORT, AD REFERENDUM.

7. ON TH DRAFT REPORT TO MINISTERS, THE IS AND THE US TABLED PROPOSED REVISIONS. THE IS REVISIONS WERE DIRECTED TOWARD UPDATING THE DRAFT REPORT TO REFLECT ACTIONS TAKEN SUBSEQUENT TO ITS CIRCULATION. FOR THEMOST
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PART, THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE IS PROPOSED REVISIONS, WHICH WILL BE INCLUDED IN A REVISED DRAFT OF THE REPORT TO MINISTERS. THE US PROPOSED REVISION TO PARA 14 OF THE REPORT (REF A) WAS TABLED USING THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF B AS JUSTIFICATION. THE EXCHANGE OF COMMENTS AMONG THE AHC REPS RESULTED IN THE DECISION TO REWRITE PARAS 14, 15 AND 16 IN THE REVISED DRAFT. COMMENT: THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF TABLING THE DETAILED JUSTIFICATION FOR THE US-PROPOSED CHANGES TO PARA 14 WAS TO FOCUS ALLIES' ATTENTION ON THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THE FAILURE TO HARMONIZE TANK GUNS AMONG PRODUCING NATIONS. THIS, IN TURN, CONTRIBUTED TO A VERITABLE CLAMOR BY AHC REPS THAT THE REPORT TO MINISTERS HIGHLIGHT THIS FAILURE AND THE NEED TO RECTIFY IT. ALLIED AND ISREPS CLEARLY CONSIDERED THE US-PROPOSED CHANGES TO BE UNNECESSARILY DEFENSIVE AND ARGUMENTATIVE. THUS, THEY WERE INCLINED TO VIEW THE SITUATION WITH MORE ALARM THAN WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED. END COMMENT.

8. THE CHANGE TO PARA 17(B) PROPOSED BY WASHINGTON WAS NOT REPEATED NOT TABLED. THE INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN PARA 17, UNDER THE HEADING OBJECTIVES, ARE DIRECT QUOTES FROM THE WG/4 TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR), WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN AGREED, AND UNDER WHICH WG/4 HAS BEEN OPERATING FOR MORE THAN A YEAR.

9. THE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE US PROPOSAL TO DELETE THE WORD "PRIMARY" IN THE SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 19; AND TO ADD THE WORD "FEASIBILITY" TO THE THIRD SENTENCE. HOWEVER, WHEN LABERGE POINTED OUT THAT ADDING THE WORD "POSSIBLE" TO THE SEVENTH SENTENCE WOULD BE A SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE TO THE MEANING OF THE PARAGRAPH AND WAS, IN FACT, CONTRARY TO THE DECISION ALREADY TAKEN BY MINISTERS, THE COMMITTEE REJECTED ITS INCLUSION.

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10. IN LIGHT OF WASHINGTON'S CONCERNS OF THE FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE, (PARA 2, REF A), WE TABLED REVISED WORDING FOR PARA 35. IN THE REVISED REPORT, PARA 35 WILL READ:

QUOTE: 35. MINISTERS ARE INVITED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

A. TO AGREE THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD CONTINUE IN EXISTENCE FOR THE TIME BEING AND REPORT TO THE MINISTERIAL SESSION IN DECEMBER 1977.

B. TO NOTE THE NECESSITY FOR A DECISION BY MINISTERS IN DECEMBER 1977 ON THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. END QUOTE.

COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THIS REVISED WORDING REMOVES THE

IMPLICATION OF DECEMBER 1977 FINALITY AND LEAVES
OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE THE OPTION TO ASSESS THE WORKING GROUP
SITUATION AS THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL APPROACHES. IN
ADDITION, IT WILL ALLOW THE COMMITTEE TO MAKE POSITIVE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTERS ON HOW TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS
OF INTEROPERABILITY AS THEY ARISE IN THE FUTURE. END
COMMENT.

11. A REVISED DRAFT OF THE REPORT TO MINISTERS WILL
BE CIRCULATED DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 18. WE WILL
FORWARD THE REPORT FOR WASHINGTON COMMENT AS SOON AS
RECEIVED.

12. ACTION REQUESTED. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY APRIL
22, 1977 ON:

A. THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE PROPOSED TASKING
CONTAINED IN THE IS PAPER ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE WG/2 REPORT.

B. THE LABERGE REPORT ON TANK GUN AMMUNITION
(AC/297-D/31).

C. THE REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CNAD AD HOC
STUDY GROUP ON THE PROCEDURES FOR INTEROPERABILITY OF
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FUTURE EQUIPMENT (AC/297-D/32).

(ALL ABOVE DOCUMENTS WILL BE HAND CARRIED TO WASHINGTON
ON APRIL 16.)STRAUSZ-HUPE

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